

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES, CITY
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND FRIENDS OF HONOLULU CITY LIGHTS
TO DISCUSS THE EXPANSION OF HONOLULU CITY LIGHTS
FESTIVITIES TO INCLUDE THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS.

1 WHEREAS, in 1985, then Mayor Frank F. Fasi created a free
2 event that included a lit tree on the main lawn, decorated tree
3 display in the courtyard, holiday concert, and displays of light
4 on the trees and buildings from Downtown Honolulu to the civic
5 center; and
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7 WHEREAS, in 1987, the official "Honolulu City Lights" was
8 established as a month-long holiday event centered around
9 Honolulu's largest decorated Christmas tree; and
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11 WHEREAS, in 1989, the famous "Shaka Santa", standing
12 twenty-one feet high and weighing two tons, was the first large
13 display sculpted by Kurt Nelson at the direction of event
14 designer Owen Ho; and
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16 WHEREAS, the popularity of the festival naturally led to
17 expansion from Honolulu Hale through Thomas Square and Downtown
18 Honolulu; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Friends of Honolulu City Lights is a non-
21 profit organization dedicated to supporting this festive display
22 of the Holiday Spirit through fundraising and coordinating
23 efforts that enable the month-long event to remain free to local
24 families and visitors alike; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Capitol, as a neighboring
27 property to Honolulu Hale, could be a site for expanded
28 festivities of the Honolulu City Lights; and
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30 WHEREAS, examples like the Union Square Holiday Park in New
31 York City demonstrate the potential for the Honolulu City Lights
32 given an expansion of the event and the cooperation between the
33 State, City and County of Honolulu, and Friends of Honolulu City
34 Lights; and



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2 WHEREAS, an expanded Honolulu City Lights festival could
3 stimulate the economy by showcasing locally-owned small
4 businesses that provide food, crafts, and other goods to eager
5 holiday shoppers from around the world; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
8 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
9 Department of Accounting and General Services, City and County
10 of Honolulu, and Friends of Honolulu City Lights are urged to
11 discuss the potential for expanded Honolulu City Lights
12 festivities to include the State Capitol grounds that will
13 feature locally-owned small businesses and other events to
14 celebrate the holiday season; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller, Mayor of the City
18 and County of Honolulu, and Director of the Friends of Honolulu
19 City Lights.
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OFFERED BY: 
Clarence K. Nashikawa
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